

**Full Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, August 23, 2022  
Virtual Meeting**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Brad Levine convened the full board meeting of the Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees with the following members participating:

Mr. Brent Burns, Mr. Piero Bussani, Mr. Daniel Cane, Dr. Kimberly Dunn, Mr. Earnie Ellison, Mrs. Barbara Feingold, Mr. Robert Flippo, Mr. Pierce Kennamer, Ms. Elycia Morris, Mrs. Sherry Murphy, and Mrs. Linda Stoch.

The following university officials participated: Mr. Donovan Diaz, Executive Director, Equity and Inclusion; Dr. Michele Hawkins, Interim Provost; Dr. Russ Ivy, Sr. Associate Provost; Dr. John Kelly, University President; Mr. David Kian, VP Legal Affairs, Ms. Stacy Volnick, VP Administrative Affairs; and Mr. Andrew LaPlant, Board of Trustees Operations.

**Roll was taken and a quorum was present.**

**II. Public Comments**

No public comments.

**III. Action Items**

**a. Approval of the 2022-23 Supplemental Educational Plant Survey**

Ms. Stacy Volnick, VP Administrative Affairs, presented the item. Ms. Volnick stated that the Educational Plant Survey is conducted by the Board of Governors (BOG) every five years. That is a process where they look at PECO-eligible projects to see if we demonstrate a need for the university. A need is demonstrated through programs enhancements and enrollment projections. They survey

recommended the health sciences building last year. Since then, we have expanded the size of the building and scope of the project. That needs a supplemental education plant survey. They did survey recommend the health sciences building. Now it comes back to the board for approval. If approved, it then goes to the BOG for their approval.

Chair Levine noted that the survey is technical, and they look at the entire campus, including FAU's partner campuses.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2022-23 Supplemental Educational Plant Survey. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**b. Approval of the FAU Revised 2023-24 Five Year Capital Improvement Plan**

Ms. Volnick presented the item. The next step after the approval of the educational plant survey, we send to the board an updated capital improvement plan (CIP) for approval. Ms. Volnick said the College of Medicine is not eligible for PECO funding. That is noted on the new CIP, where FAU is requesting \$75 million for the health sciences training facility. FAU has committed \$25 in non-state funding, so the BOG has applied that toward the space in that facility as College of Medicine only. This revised CIP shows \$75 million request, even though it's a \$100 million building. It's a technicality, nothing has changed in the scope of the building, but it does change what we can request in PECO funding.

Chair Levine said we will be working with Chris Delisio (VP Advancement) and Julie Pilitsis (Dean, College of Medicine) on expanding what the building is. We expect the state legislature to ask for more private donations to the building.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve the FAU Revised 2023-24 Five Year Capital Improvement Plan. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**c. Approval of the Florida Educational Equity Report**

Mr. Donovan Diaz, Chief Compliance & Ethics Officer, presented the item. This is a required report. FAU's numbers continue to rise in key areas, including diversity areas. FAU continues to serve the veteran community and we continue to be named to the "Military Times: Best for Vets" list.

FAU's academic programs reflects the racial, ethnic and gender diversity of the student population. Some examples over the last five years include gains in Hispanic and Black community college transfers, with bachelors and doctoral research degrees awarded increasing in both areas.

Overall employment has seen an increase in Hispanic, Black and Asian tenured faculty. Trustee Ellison asked about the 333% increase in Black tenure-track faculty. Mr. Diaz replied the increase was going from 3 to 13 in that area.

Trustee Ellison asked if Mr. Diaz has an adequate budget for this. Mr. Diaz replied that they need to do a deeper dive into all the areas. He said that his area, Equity and Inclusion, has a good budget where he has a full staff, with three investigators on the compliance side.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve the Florida Educational Equity Report. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**d. Approval of the 2022 Plan for Civil Discourse Implementation**

Mr. Diaz presented the item. Chair Levine opened that this was an initiative by the BOG, specifically Governor Cerio. Mr. Diaz stated there are five key recommendations that the BOG asked FAU (and all SUS universities) to respond. Mr. Diaz went through each recommendation.

Trustee Ellison asked about House Bill 7 and its comparison to Recommendation 3. Recommendation 3 states, "Leadership of each university board of trustees, faculty senate, and student government annually review and endorse the Board's Statement of Free Expression and commit to the principles of civil discourse." Mr. Kian responded that House Bill 7 (HB7) does not relate to the recommendation in regards to free expression. The university has been pursuing a number of initiatives in relation to House Bill 7. (At some point) after today, we will be publishing an amendment to FAU's Anti-Discrimination regulation. The reason we are waiting is that the BOG is considering its own regulation, which sets forth the requirement of university to comply with HB7.

Trustee Feingold asked if you were to define civil discourse, what would it say? Mr. Diaz replied that the purpose of higher education is to provide a learning environment where different ideas and opinions can be debated and create a framework for those discussions. Trustee Feingold asked if there was anything different being brought into this implementation besides free expression. Chair Levine replied that was the purpose of this implementation. It's bringing what has always been into the forefront so that all voices are heard and civil. This is codifying it. Mr. Kian noted it's a continuation of an ongoing effort that began in 2018 when the Florida Legislature passed the Campus Free Expression Act. In 2019, the BOG passed a free expression statement which was found on the University of Chicago's principles which has been in place since the 1930s. All 12 of the SUS universities adopted that statement. In 2021, the BOG appointed a task force to develop a process for the BOG to review civil discourse best practices across the SUS. They required the universities to prepare a statement on the implementation of all these initiatives. This statement is the description of the implementation of the prior and ongoing years.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2022 Plan for Civil Discourse Implementation. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**e. Approval of the Textbook Affordability Report**

Dr. Michele Hawkins, Interim Provost, presented the item. Dr. Hawkins said she encourages faculty to get the best textbooks for the best cost. There are several guidelines to follow. FAU also encourages the faculty to keep the per student credit hour at \$20 for the cost of a book. FAU has a good relationship with Follett Bookstore and they provide used, rental and digital books. They also match the price if a student can get a book for cheaper.

Trustee Bussani asked about the 33% of courses at zero cost and what accounts for that. Dr. Hawkins replied that some faculty use resources off the internet. Others use in-class work and they don't need a textbook. Trustee Murphy asked if the faculty share any best practices. Dr. Hawkins replied they do share, especially in their own colleges. The different departments are working together so there is oversight. Trustee Murphy wanted to make sure quality was also being looked at, not just cost.

Trustee Kennamer asked about access codes that courses are now using to access textbooks online. Dr. Hawkins said the issue is you can't sell them at the end of the course, but it has newer material. Chair Levine asked Trustee Kennamer to speak with Dr. Hawkins to come up with a solution. Trustee Kennamer said he will.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve the Textbook Affordability Report. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**f. Legislative Budget Requests**

**i. Applying Artificial Intelligence across the Community Health Continuum  
(University of Distinction)**

Mr. Ryan Britton, Executive Director, Government Relations, presented the item. Mr. Britton noted that both have been submitted to the BOG and transmitted to the trustees. This is a \$30.6 million request that is separated into two categories, recurring and non-recurring funding. This is a retroactive request applying Artificial Intelligence across the community health continuum.

Trustee Ellison said it was very well written. Mr. Britton said Dean Pilitsis and her team made a very comprehensive and robust ask.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve the Legislative Budget Request – Applying Artificial Intelligence across the Community Health Continuum (University of Distinction). With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**ii. Enhancing and Expanding Florida's Nursing Workforce at all Levels**

Mr. Britton presented the item. Mr. Britton noted that the BOG lets universities submit unique items if they fall outside of the categories that the BOG has identified as their request. This falls outside of that as a unique item. This request aligns with a pot of money identified as the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) funds to help deal with the workforce issue around healthcare and nursing shortages.

Chair Levine said the nursing shortage is extreme here in South Florida. He noted that the hospitals are probably spending more than \$20 million a month on visiting nurses. We, at FAU, want to help the nursing shortage and the state legislature is very supportive of it.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve the Legislative Budget Request – Enhancing and Expanding Florida’s Nursing Workforce at all Levels. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**g. College of Nursing LIME Industry Partnership Proposals**

Dr. Hawkins presented the item. She noted that the partnership with the hospitals asked that the students on the scholarship agree to a two-year work agreement, which gets them to stay in the area. Trustee Cane asked if this has been tried elsewhere. Dr. Hawkins replied that they have done it in other disciplines but not nursing yet. Trustee Cane noted it was a \$10,000 scholarship. Dr. Hawkins replied yes, plus another \$10,000 match. Trustee Cane asked that they will ensure the contract has a means in which the scholarship is forgiven, so the student doesn’t have to pay it back if they don’t finish due to mitigating circumstances. Trustee Feingold said it was a great initiative.

**i. Memorial Healthcare System**

Dr. Hawkins said this will help us fund faculty and provide scholarships. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the College of Nursing LIME Industry Partnership Proposal – Memorial Healthcare System. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**ii. Baptist Health**

Dr. Hawkins said this will help us fund mainly scholarships. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the College of Nursing LIME Industry Partnership Proposal – Memorial Healthcare System. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**h. Approval of Specialized Admission Status**

Dr. Russ Ivy, Sr. Associate Provost, presented the items. Dr. Ivy said the BOG voted to phase out their limited access program status to be replaced by a specialized admissions status. FAU has limited access are not automatically converted to specialized admissions. FAU is requesting nine programs to be switched to specialized admission status.

**i. Bachelors of Architecture**

Dr. Ivy presented the item. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the Specialized Admission Status – Bachelor of Architecture. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**ii. Bachelors of Science in Nursing**

Dr. Ivy presented the item. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the Specialized Admission Status – Bachelors of Science in Nursing. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**iii. BA/BS in Liberal Arts and Sciences – Honors College**

Dr. Ivy presented the item. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the Specialized Admission Status – BA/BS in Liberal Arts and Sciences – Honors College. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**iv. BA/BS in Biological and Physical Sciences – Honors College**

Dr. Ivy presented the item. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the Specialized Admission Status – BA/BS in Biological and Physical Sciences – Honors College. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**v. BFA in Theatre**

Dr. Ivy presented the item. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the Specialized Admission Status – BFA in Theatre. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**vi. BA/BM in Music**

Dr. Ivy presented the item. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the Specialized Admission Status – BA/BM in Music. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**vii. BME in Music Education**

Dr. Ivy presented the item. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the Specialized Admission Status – BME in Music Education. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**viii. BM in Commercial Music**

Dr. Ivy presented the item. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the Specialized Admission Status – BM in Commercial Music. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**ix. BFA in Art**

Dr. Ivy presented the item. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the Specialized Admission Status – BFA in Art. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**i. Exclusion Resolution and Designation of Key Management Personnel and Delegation of Authority**

Mr. David Kian, VP Legal Affairs, presented the item. Mr. Kian said FAU intends to apply for classified research grants and/or contracts with agencies of the United States government that require certain security clearances. The Department of Defense allows the exclusion from the personnel security clearance requirements board members provided that the governing board adopts a resolution stating that such board members, designated by name, shall not require, shall not have, and shall be effectively excluded from access to all classified information in the possession of the entity, and that they do not occupy positions that would enable them to adversely affect the entity's policies or practices.

Trustee Cane asked if we can have at least one member go through the background checks to give oversight. Mr. Kian replied that we have always have had the chair and vice chair and FAU has plans to do that again.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve the Exclusion Resolution and Designation of Key Management Personnel and Delegation of Authority. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**j. Approval of Amendments to Board Operations Policies and Procedures**

Mr. Kian presented the item. Mr. Kian stated the previously approved policies and procedures did not have exact dates for the terms of the officers. Several years ago, the board decided to move the election of the officers to the fall. This new set of amendments will include a second vice chair. The officers are all elected during the September meeting of the board and the term will run through September 30<sup>th</sup> of the next even numbered year.

Trustee Cane said it was good governance to update the terms and dates. He was unfamiliar with a second vice chair. He asked what was the reason for it and how many other SUS institutions have a



second vice chair. Mr. Kian replied that we don't know if the other SUS institutions have a second vice chair. He continued that the reason for the additional chair is for continuity.

Trustee Cane asked if Chair Levine was involved with the drafting of the amendments. Chair Levine replied that he was involved. He wanted the dates to be updated and continuity among the board officers.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve the Amendments to Board Operations Policies and Procedures. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**k. Approval of Naming Elements**

**i. Lucy A. Craske Simulation Shared Space in celebration of Christine E. Lynn and her love of Nursing**

Mr. Chris Delisio, VP Advancement, presented the item. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the Lucy A. Craske Simulation Shared Space in celebration of Christine E. Lynn and her love of Nursing. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**ii. Michael J. Feldman '82 Gate**

Mr. Delisio presented the item. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the Michael J. Feldman '82 Gate. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

**l. Approval of Amendment to the 2022 FAU Accountability Plan**

Dr. Hawkins presented the item. Dr. Hawkins said the accountability plan has to include any program the university is looking at approving. Since the last accountability plan was approved, the university has proposed a new doctoral program in dentistry. The BOG suggested we add it to the accountability plan.

Trustee Ellison said since he is still fairly new on the board, he would like to go over all of the policies and procedures of the university. Chair Levine asked the staff to work with him on getting more information on those items.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2022 FAU Accountability Plan. With no further discussion or amendments, the motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Levine recognized President Kelly to give some brief remarks. President Kelly said that fall semester is under way. This may be FAU's largest incoming class in history. Valery Forbes has started as the new dean of science. Dr. Kelly promoted Stacy Volnick to Chief Operating Officer, along with her current role as Vice President, Administrative Affairs. Trustee Feingold noted that this was a well-deserved promotion for Stacy and is so happy about this promotion for her. Trustee Dunn echoed Trustee Feingold's sentiments.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

**A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.**